

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Hungary

SUBJECT The Daily Program of a Hungarian Medical Student/  
Professors and Subjects Studied

PLACE  
ACQUIRED

25X1

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1. [redacted] a student [redacted] petitioned for admission to medical schools in Hungary in 1949. He was finally admitted during the fall semester of 1952. During the inter-  
im period, that is from 1949 to 1952, the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Hungary  
which had denied him previous admission because his father was a strong foe of  
Communism, investigated his entire family background. This student's father, who  
opposed Communist encroachment upon the medical profession, fled from Hungary in  
1949. Shortly thereafter the mother of this student was hauled into Communist  
headquarters for questioning. For almost one year thereafter both he and his  
mother were continuously questioned concerning the whereabouts of the father. In  
1951 the father, a resident of Western Europe, passed away. Upon his death, the  
Communist secret police relaxed in their efforts to extract confessions and deter-  
mine the whereabouts of the father. His death, then known to the Communists, was  
apparently a blessing in so far as the academic career of this student was concerned.  
Although he had successfully completed the Matura in 1949, he was not admitted until  
the fall semester of 1952.

2. This student was admitted to the University of Szeged and in the winter of 1952 he  
wrote several letters to friends in Western Europe.

The following, then, is his description of his life as a medical student:

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3. "My dream is finally fulfilled for I now have the opportunity to learn to become a doctor. My residence at Szeged is a short distance from the State Medical College of Hungary. I have been given a fine warm room which contains a bathroom, running water both hot and cold, and incidentally, there is a small balcony. My food is quite reasonable; in fact, it costs only six florins [forins] weekly. I can objectively say that my living circumstances are good and that the state does provide us with everything, but everything must follow a prescribed order. As an example, we students are not permitted to leave the University without permission and must be in our rooms by eleven o'clock evenings. We are never permitted to stay overnight beyond the campus. A typical day in the study of medicine might be summed up as follows:
- A. "It is obligatory to be out of bed and dressed for calisthenics at 6:00 AM. "Our calisthenics or gymnastics, under the direction of an instructor, consume about 15 minutes.
  - B. "We then don our daily attire and from 6:45 until 7:30 AM we gather together into groups of 15 or 16 students. During this time we read the journals and discuss the political significance of the contents. (Political indoctrination).
  - C. "Then comes the breakfast which is composed of coffee and bread. Once in a great while we are provided with butter.
  - D. "After breakfast we attend our first class, anatomy, which is of course conducted at the Anatomic Institution. At the Anatomic Institution we attend lectures from 8:00 until 11:00 AM.
  - E. "My second class is physics, which I attend from 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM.
  - F. "Our dinners (lunches) are from 1:00 until 2:00 PM.
  - G. "From 2:30 until 6:00 PM we study chemistry, both lectures and laboratory work.
  - H. "At 6:00 PM I take my final course for the day. This is biology. In this course we are given different practices and exercises in order that we might learn.
  - I. "There is no scheduled class work at the University on Saturday and Sunday. During this time we can learn or sleep the whole day if we desire. We must study and work very hard and apply ourselves diligently, for if we don't, we will be tossed out of the college. There is always someone to take our place.
4. "Professors at the University of Szeged:
- A. "The Professor of Anatomy is Dr. Albert Falleri, MD
  - B. "The Professor of Biology is Dr. Joseph Galsi, MD
  - C. "The Professor of Chemistry is Dr. Andrew Kranli
  - D. "At the moment we have no professor of physics, for the vacancy which occurred with the death of Dr. Pawell Frochlich has not been filled.
  - E. "The Rector Magnificus of the University is a professor of law. His name is Trencseny-Waldapfel, Joseph.
  - F. "I do not know these professors personally for I have no problems. I notice that the leadership of the whole university and educational processes is in the hands of the older pupils who are politically the most faithful and reliable (the student Communist organizations).
5. "I am confronted with a grave problem which simply stated is that I have no books, nor do I have money to purchase them. Consequently, I must borrow whenever possible from my fellow students. I have gone to the neighborhood and spoken with professional men who might have some old texts which they could lend me, but have had no success. During the holidays I intend to go to Budapest and will seek the advice of doctor friends who might be able to help me with this dilemma."

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